


Deborah A. Gist  
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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Enclosure 7b  
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**TO:** Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 

**SUBJECT:** Approval of ESOL Certification Test and Passing Score

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As part of its strategic plan and Race to the Top initiative, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) has revised certification regulations for initial certification to include the requirement that "assessments based upon professional standards are required for all certification areas." To meet this requirement, RIDE has conducted a comprehensive examination of certification tests and passing scores, certification test impact data, national and regional state certification tests and passing scores, issues of certification test portability, and the availability of prospective candidates within certification areas.

The Board of Regents previously voted on June 7, 2012 to approve forty-five recommended certification tests and passing scores. The Board also directed RIDE to conduct further study and analysis regarding the proposed ESOL certification test and passing score to ensure that the recommended test and score are appropriate and aligned with RIDE priorities. The further study and analysis included additional review of state and national tests and passing scores, consultation with state and national experts, and analysis of the alignment of the proposed test to national standards. This further study and analysis confirmed RIDE's previous recommendation.

**Therefore, I RECOMMEND THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adopts the recommended Educational Testing Service certification tests (ESOL 0361) and passing score (151) as a requirement for initial licensure in Rhode Island.**